

The NAB request to restrict =93local traffic and weather=94 transmissions by satellite digital audio radio service (=93SDARS=94) must be denied.

Radio is a public service and exists =93In the public interest, convenience or necessity=94. It is both necessary and convenient for the driving public to have current and up to date traffic and weather information. By current, I mean less than 5 minutes between updates. =94Local=94 radio stations frequently carry traffic and weather, but it is at best every 10 minutes, and during the non-drive times, it is not at all. Also during these =93local=94 radio updates, many parts of the traffic network are left out, due to time constraints. If the =93local=94 radio station can=92t get it all said in one minute, they leave it out. They also talk so fast, you can=92t understand them. =93Local=94 radio is not filling this need. It is easily filled by SDARS who does not have the time and commercial constraints of =93local=94 radio.

Satellite Audio Radio Broadcasting service fills this niche very well. I can get the local traffic and weather every 2 or 3 minutes. I also can call them on the phone and report any problems I find, and they have it on the air in less than 5 minutes. This service can also be used for Amber Alerts that can be heard nation wide. This is a real, special public service.

It is also necessary for long distance drivers to know what the traffic conditions are in the next metropolitan area they will be entering. With this knowledge, long distance drivers are better able to time their arrival and avoid problems. Frequently you need to make your decision as to what road to take at a distance beyond the reach of =93local=94 radio stations. You also don=92t know what frequency =93local=94 stations are using, making the driver play with the radio, trying to get a traffic report for conditions ahead of them. This encourages un-safe driving. With SDARS, the driver knows the frequency of the next metropolitan Traffic and Weather station, and can have it programmed into the memory of the receiver ahead of time. One punch of the button and the current information is instantly available.

I believe having the SDARS service continue to provide =93local traffic and weather=94 that is nationally available, is a necessary Public Service that is not being provided by standard, terrestrial, AM and FM (digital or analog) radio stations. Please deny this requested change in rule making.

Thank you.

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<DIV><FONT face=3DArial size=3D2>&lt;NAME&gt; Martha H. Colburn  
<BR>&lt;ADDRESS1&gt;  
13704 W Whitewood Dr<BR>&lt;ADDRESS2&gt;<BR>&lt;CITY&gt; Sun City  
West<BR>&lt;STATE&gt; AZ<BR>&lt;ZIP&gt;  
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